

Message Text

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11/43

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-02 PA-01

PRS-01 INR-07 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /036 W
----- 033181

O R 041705Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9354

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1641

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (NUMBERED PARA TO READ FOUR VICE FIVE)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, ET, IT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF ITALIAN RESIDENTS OF ERITERA

SUMMARY: GOI IS PREPARED TO BEGIN VOLUNTARY EVACUATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1500 ITALIANS FROM ERITERA TO ITALY WHEN ASMARA AIRPORT REOPENS. END SUMMARY.

1. WE UNDERSTAND ITALIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS RECENTLY DISCUSSED WITH DEPARTMENT CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ECACUATION OF ITALIANS FROM ERITERA. FOLLOWING IS INTENDED UPDATE OR SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT.

2. PER COUNSELOR RACHELE OF FONMIN (OFFICE DIRECTOR, SUB-SAHARA), AROUND 1500 ITALIANS, MOSTLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN COMPRISING ROUGHLY HALF ITALIAN COMMUNITY IN ERITERA, ARE ANSIXOUS AND READY TO EVACUATE TO ITALY. REMAINING HALF, MALES, ARE BELIEVED UNABLE OBTAIN GOE EXIT VISAS WITHOUT UNDERGOING LENGTHY PROCESS OF PAYING TAXES, SOCIAL SECURITY ON EX-EMPLOYEES, ETC.

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3. ITALY COULD HANDLE EVACUATION RELATIVELY PROMPTLY VIA

ALITALIA FLIGHTS, REGULAR OR CHARETER, WERE IT NOT FOR FACT THAT ASMARA AIRPORT HAS BEEN CLOSED BY GOE OFFICIALS. REGULAR ALITALIA FLIGHT FROM ROME FEBRUARY 3 WAS REFUSED PERMISSION TO LAND ASMARA AND DIVERTED TO MOGADISCO, EVEN THOUGH ITALIAN CONGEN TO ASMARA AND A SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITY

OF RELIEF SUPPLIES WERE ON BOARD. RACHELE SHOWED NO OPTIMISM THAT AIRPORT WOULD SOON BE RE-OPENEND, GIVEN FOR EXAMPLE ITS "USE BY GOE FOR MILITARY PURPOSES." HOWEVER, CURRENT ITALIAN PLAN TO LOAD ALL INBOUND FLIGHTS WITH EMERGENCY SUPPLIES FOR "POPULATION OF ASMARA" MIGHT HELP WIN GOE APPROVAL. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR TO ROME HAVING "QUIT", RACHELE IS TRYING TO FIND ETHIOPIAN CHARGE TO SEEK HIS INTERVENTION WITH DIRG.

4. ITALIAN WOULD-BE EVACUEES ARE LEAVING NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF "CHAOTIC" SECURITY SITUATION BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF GROWING SCARCITY OF FOOD, DISRUPTION OF WATER AND ELECTRIC SERVICES, AND GENERALLY GLOOMY PROGNOSIS FOR ERITERA IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. VOLPE UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, CIVIL DISORDERS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, EVACUATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 04 JAN 1975
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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Subject: POSSIBLE EVACUATION OF ITALIAN RESIDENTS OF ERITERA SUMMARY: GOI IS PREPARED TO BEGIN VOLUNTARY EVACUATION OF
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, ET, IT
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Type: TE
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